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- 7.—1. *The History of King Philip's War.* By BENJAMIN CHURCH. With an Introduction and Notes, by HENRY MARTYN DEXTER. Boston: J. K. Wiggin. 1865. Sm. 4to. pp. iv., 205.
2. *The History of the Eastern Expeditions of 1689, 1690, 1692, 1696, and 1704, against the Indians and French.* By BENJAMIN CHURCH. With an Introduction and Notes, by HENRY MARTYN DEXTER. Boston: J. K. Wiggin and William Parsons Lunt. 1867. Sm. 4to. pp. xxxii., 203.

THESE two beautifully printed and thoroughly edited volumes, belonging to the "Library of New England History," are a reprint of the well-known "Entertaining Passages relating to Philip's War, as also of Expeditions in the Eastern Part of New England, with some Account of the Divine Providence toward Benj. Church, Esqr." This book was first printed in 1716, about two years before the death of Captain Church. It has been several times reprinted, but the present edition surpasses all its predecessors, not only in typographical excellence, but also in accuracy, and in abundance of editorial illustration. It deserved the patient labor which Dr. Dexter has given to it, for it is one of the most characteristic and interesting records of the period of which it treats. Captain Church was a famous soldier in his day, — a hardy, healthy, vigorous settler, with more of the frontiersman than of the Puritan in his nature, and well fitted to protect the rising Colony against the attacks of its savage enemies. From the beginning of King Philip's war in 1675, down to 1704, when he made his fifth expedition against the Indians and French in the Northeast, he was in service against the savages whenever the Colonists were called on to make war upon them. When he was an old man, not far from his seventy-fifth year, and his days of active service were over, while the fire of fight still burned in his bones, he prepared, with the aid of one of his sons, the "Entertaining Passages" of his experience in savage warfare. In his "Address to the Reader," he says:—

"It was ever my Intent having laid my self under a Solemn promise, that the many & Repeated Favours of GOD to my self, and those with me in the Service, might be published for Generations to come. And now my great Age requiring my Dismission from Service in the Militia, and to put off my Armour; I am willing that the Great & Glorious works of Almighty GOD to us Children of Men should appear to the World; and having my Minutes by me; my Son has taken the care and pains to Collect from them the Insuing Narrative of many passages relating to the Former and Later Wars; which I have had the perusal of, and find nothing a-miss, — as to the Truth of it; and with as little Reflection upon any particular person as might be, either alive or dead.

"And seeing every particle of historical Truth is precious; I hope the Reader will pass a favourable Censure upon an Old Souldier, telling of the many Ran-Counters he has had, and yet is come off alive. It is a pleasure to remember what a great Number of Families in this and the Neighboring Provinces in New-England did during the War, enjoy a great measure of Liberty and Peace by the hazardous Stations and Marches of those Engaged in Military Exercises, who were a Wall unto them on this side and on that side."

The old soldier was well justified in believing that generations to come would listen with interest to his story. His narrative, besides being one of the chief authorities for the history of Philip's war and the Eastern expeditions, has a charm to one who cares for the early days of New England in the illustration it affords of the character of the people, and of the character of Captain Benjamin Church himself. Dr. Dexter calls it a "winsome narrative"; we should hardly apply this epithet to it, but it is one of those stories which are permanently interesting, from the simplicity with which it is told, and from the variety of incident recorded in it.

The exploit which made Church's name famous throughout the Colonies, and which secures his name in our history, was the surprise and killing of King Philip, in the swamp at the foot of Mount Hope. The account of this achievement is one of the best parts of the book; and the old man's blood, no doubt, kindled, as he recounted the incidents of this memorable deed, which he had performed forty years before. We have not space to copy out the whole account. One sentence will give an idea of the directness and vigor of the old man's, or his son's style:—

"The man that had shot down Philip ran with all speed to Capt. Church, and informed him of his exploit, who commanded him to be Silent about it, & let no man more know it, until they had drove the Swamp clear; but when they had drove the swamp thro' & found the Enemy had escaped, or at least the most of them; and the Sun now up, and so the dew gone, that they could not so easily Track them, the whole Company met together at the place where the Enemies Night-shelter was, and then Capt. Church gave them the news of Philip's death, upon which the whole Army gave Three loud Huzza's. Capt. Church ordered his body to be pull'd out of the mire on to the Upland, so some of Capt. Churches Indians took hold of him by his Stockings, and some by his small Breeches, (being otherwise naked) and drew him thro' the Mud unto the Upland, and a doleful, great, naked, dirty beast he look'd like."

The editor has wisely refrained from entering at length into the history of Philip's and the later Indian wars. This history is so well told by Dr. Palfrey, that there is no need for any one to tell it over again. Mr. Dexter's "Historical Introduction," in the second part of his re-

print, is, however, an excellent summary of information. His chief labor has been expended on the Memoir of Church, in Part I., and on the genealogical and local notes to almost every page of the reprint. The curious antiquary will find in these notes an immense amount of minute information, to most of which the Index to each part affords him ready reference.

But two hundred and eighty-five copies of this reprint have been struck off. The work will soon become scarce. If future volumes of the "Library of New England History" are as judiciously selected and as admirably edited as those which have already appeared, it will, in its kind, be a series of the highest value.

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8. — *History of the American Civil War.* By JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER, M. D., LL. D. In Three Volumes. Vol. I. *Containing the Causes of the War, and the Events preparatory to it up to the Close of President Buchanan's Administration.* New York: Harper and Brothers. 1867. 8vo. pp. 567.

DR. DRAPER announces in his Preface that this work is intended to be a history of the Civil War and its causes, written not in a partisan, but a philosophical spirit. His intention was a good one. Indeed, the end in view was of such eminent value, that every one interested in the philosophy of history must doubly regret the author's total lack of success in attaining it. It is undoubtedly difficult to estimate correctly the relative importance of events, both among themselves and in reference to precedent historic actions, especially when those events belong to our own time, and that time an era of revolution; but then what an incalculable benefit to mankind if the difficulties are removed, — if a mind can be found, so even in temper, so full of learning, so accurate in judgment, as to comprehend the philosophy of the turbulent, warlike age which possesses it! The fact that few minds of this character have yet existed would render the presence of another twice precious. And how much would our interest in its appearance be heightened by the consideration that its method was scientific, that it was doing its share, not merely in elevating History to the position of the other divisions of pure knowledge, but in asserting the justice of her claim to absolute supremacy and the title of science of sciences. An historian able to establish even a small portion of history on a solid foundation merits the lasting gratitude of mankind.

But regrets are unavailing. In reviewing, some time since, Dr. Draper's "Future Civil Policy," we pointed out the fact that the author